

Tetratoma desmaresti Lat. found beneath bark of a dead lower branch on an old oak, 23.vi, a *Prionocyphon serricornis* (Müller, P. W. J.) swept at the base of a wooded river-cliff section in Big Wood, 24.vi, and a dead *Prionychus ater* (F.) beneath loose bark on the trunk of a mature ash, and a *Quedius ventralis* (Aragona) under loose bark with congealed sap on a horse chestnut trunk, both 28.vi.1993. Other species of lesser note include *Ctesias serra* (F.), *Bitoma crenata* (F.), and *Xestobium rufovillosum* (Deg.). A subsequent visit, on 26.iv.1994, added an elytron of *Ischnomera ? cyanea* (F.) found beneath loose bark on an oak, and A. P. Fowles took a *Ernoporus fagi* (F.) from beech bark.

Chirk Castle Park (SJ269381) was visited on 19.vii. 1993. The old deer park includes a large concentration of ancient oaks, partly within a matrix of secondary birch, oak, beech and sycamore, partly in conifer plantation and including a large area of open bracken with some hawthorns. The most important find here was *Dorcatoma serra* Panz., which was tapped from a bracket of *Inonotus dryadeus* on an oak. *Ctesias serra* was found on another old oak. The neighbouring Baddy's Park is a large area of sheep pasture studded with overmature oak and hawthorn, plus a few field maple. The most interesting find here was *Abdera quadrifasciata* (Curt.) which was tapped from a dead lower branch of an old spreading oak. *Eledona agricola* (Herbst) was typically found in *Laetiporus sulphureus* bracket on an oak, and other species noted include *Cryptarcha strigata* (F.), *Prionychus ater*, *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.) and *Xestobium rufovillosum*. A dead tree in the Home Park was riddled with borings of a *Xyloterus* sp., most probably *X. domesticus* (L.). This is clearly an important old Border parkland and would merit further investigation.

Of these beetles, *Abdera quadrifasciata*, *Dorcatoma serra*, *Ernoporus fagi*, *Quedius ventralis*, and *Tetratoma desmaresti* are new to Wales, and *Cryptarcha strigata*, *Eledona agricola*, and *Prionychus ater* new to North Wales.

These findings bring both sites into the top league of Welsh parklands. The "Alexander index" for both parks currently stands at 13, a total surpassed in Wales only by Dinefwr Park (Alexander & Pavett, 1992) and Powis Castle Park, with indices of 25 and 17 respectively. Old Cilgwyn, Ceredigion also has 13, while Gregynog Great Wood stands close at 12. Welsh parks are however currently the subject of a major survey by the Countryside Council for Wales.

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REFERENCE

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Myopites eximia Seguy (Diptera: Tephritidae) new to Devon.—While in S. Devon on holiday, I collected some dead flowerheads of golden samphire, *Inula crithmoides* L., growing from rock crevices low down on the rocky coast on the south side of Bolt Tail (SX 669394), 14.xi.1993. In due course, a single specimen of this red data book (Shirt, 1987) species emerged (called *M. frauenfeldi* Schiner in that publication).

M. eximia is only known from western and south-western Europe (White, 1988), and in Britain has only so far been reported from south-eastern England, as far west as Dorset (Falk, 1991). The foodplant is much more widespread than this, occurring from the Mull of Galloway southwards along the Atlantic coasts of Europe and across the Mediterranean (Clapham *et al.*, 1989). Falk (1991) associated the species

with saltmarsh and coastal shingle banks. While the foodplant is perhaps most frequent in these habitats in the south-east, it is very characteristic of the splash zone of rocky cliffs in the south-west and it is perhaps no surprise that it has now been found at a rocky south-western site.—K. N. A. ALEXANDER, 14 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ.

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***Dirhagus pygmaeus* (F.) (Eucnemidae) and *Hallomenus binotatus* (Quen.) (Melan-dryidae): two beetles new to Wales.**—These two deadwood beetles were discovered new to Wales in the course of National Trust Biological Survey fieldwork during 1994. A dead *Hallomenus binotatus* was found within a bracket of the fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* (Bull.) growing on oak in Graigllech Woods (SN848119), Brecon., 26.vii.1994. Although reasonably widespread across much of England and Scotland, it does appear to be much rarer in the south-west, being unknown in Devon and Cornwall for instance. A male and a female *Dirhagus pygmaeus* were swept within the extensive woodlands of the Bishopston Valley (SS568878), Gower, Glam., 22.vi.1994. The distribution of this species in Britain is rather curious, but it occurs right across the southern counties, in the West Midlands and the north, and its discovery in Wales is therefore no real surprise. Bracken oakwoods are a very typical habitat and there is no shortage of such in Wales.—K. N. A. ALEXANDER, National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QW.

A winter emergence of *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* Zeller (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae).—A large number of *Phyllonorycter* mines, situated on the underside of the leaves of grey alder (*Alnus incana* L.), were collected from a supermarket car park in the eastern suburbs of Cardiff, in early November. They were taken indoors with the intention of placing them into individual storage for the winter, but began to hatch within a few days. After one week, forty adults and one parasitoid (Pteromalidae) had emerged. The moths were later identified as *P. strigulatella* (Zeller, 1846), by the authors. This would appear to be a new record for Glamorgan (VC41), and is possibly new for Wales.

P. strigulatella is described as being bivoltine (Heath & Emmet, 1985), with the adults on the wing in early May, or late July and August. The autumn larval stage is thought to be completed in October, leaving the pupae to survive the winter. It seems unusual for the moths to have emerged so quickly upon being brought indoors, especially since the autumn was reasonably mild prior to collection.—D. J. SLADE & M. R. WILSON, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

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